

**Golf Commission Meeting
August 27, 2012
Minutes**

Members Present: Ron Dray, Chairman; Owen Evans, Vice-Chairman; Teri Deal; Dick DeLibro; Joe DeLuca; Tony Guzzi; Jonathan Turk

Also Attending: Robert Brown, Director of Golf; Hidalgo Nagashima, Director of Golf Course Property; Jon Janik, Head Golf Professional

Members Absent: Tony Johnson; Joyce Michaels

Ron Dray, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Review and Approval of Prior Minutes:

Review and approval of the Minutes of July 23, 2012 . . . A Motion was made by Mr. Evans seconded by Mr. Guzzi to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously.

Audience Participation:

- Mr. Ron Pavlucik, Shelton resident, asked for Commission approval to place a bench on the course as a legacy to his 95-year old father who is a Trumbull resident and still very much enjoys playing golf at Tashua Knolls Golf Course. Mr. Pavlucik said that he would bear all costs for the bench and a plaque with his father's name on it. He also asked that the bench be placed in the corner of either the 1st or 10th tee. The Commission very much appreciates the offer of Mr. Pavlucik and will discuss placement of the bench and report back to Mr. Pavlucik
- Mark and Jennifer Kirkham of Farmstead Road in Trumbull appeared before the Commission to update their situation regarding golf balls hit into their yard. They reported that balls continue to be hit into their yard with several nearly hitting the family. They asked the Commission for a solution.

Mr. Dray made a motion at 7:45 PM, seconded by Mr. Evans, to move into Executive Session to discuss the matter. Also invited were Mr. Robert Nicola, Town Attorney, and Mr. John Ponzio, Town Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to exit Executive session was made by Mr. DeLuca at 8:04 PM and seconded by Mr. Evans. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mrs. Deal seconded by Mr. DeLuca to further consider issues related to the property on Farmstead Lane owned by Mr. & Mrs. Kirkham. Oppose - 7. Motion failed.

Mr. Kirkham asked for further clarification of what the vote meant. Mr. Nicola stated that in response to the Kirkham's seeking guidance from the Commission, the Commission has voted not to look into the issue any further. The Kirkhams were very disappointed with this decision and asked again why the decision was made. Mr. Nicola stated that there were several reasons including the facts that the golf course was built many years before the house was built, that the Kirkhams were fully aware of the potential for golf balls in their yard when they bought the house, and that they were never made any promises by the Commission that anything would be done. The Kirkhams re-iterated that they did not agree with the decision and that they believed that something could be done. Mr. Nicola asked the Kirkhams to answer yes or no to the question "assuming some things are done will they be satisfied". Mr. Kirkham responded that he couldn't answer that question because he did not know what would be done. He also asked for permission to have an expert assess the golf course and present the findings to the Commission. The Commission responded that the golf course is a public facility and anyone is allowed to purchase a ticket and play on the course. The Kirkhams were then requested to end their discussions as a great deal of time had already been allocated to the issue.

Director of Golf Course Properties Report (Hidalgo Nagashima):

Labor:

- Director of Golf Course Properties (Nagashima)
- Mechanic (Plaveck)
- Full-time Greensmen (Cook, Cook, Gallant, Romano)
- Eleven part-time seasonal (Messina, DeFrancisco, Quinn, Hoepfner, Markaj, Goodwin, Oleyar, Balkun, Edvardson, Valuzzo, Rivera)
- Four summer seasonal (Bowden, Tyborowski, Bird, Kish)

Maintenance Department Outline:

- Both courses are holding up even though we are going through an unusually hot and dry summer. Our collars around the greens are showing some recovery. They will be aerated and seeded again.
- The Glen tees and greens have been aerated. The fall vertidrain will be done on Monday, November 5th. The Knolls greens may be aerified with a solid tine prior to November. The fairways will be aerated after Labor Day.
- The ponds were treated for algae.
- A sample of more aesthetically pleasing 150' yardage markers will be given to Mr. Guzzi for comment.
- Mr. Nagashima has been having some initial discussions with several area professionals for guidance in putting together the bunker project.

Green Committee (Owen Evans):

- Mr. Evans will email an updated Green Committee list to all of the Commissioners.
- Mr. Nagashima reported on the situation around the collars of several greens. The problem was that the thatch was too thick to allow the pesticide to fully infiltrate the soil resulting in weevil grubs eating the roots. The thatch was aerified and specific grub

pesticide was applied which has killed the grubs. The grass will be entering the fall growing season and is beginning to show signs of progress.

Director of Golf Operations/Head Professional Report (Bobby Brown & Jon Janik):

Golf Operations:

- July Rounds 2012: 10,411 (6,742 Knolls/3,649 Glen) vs. 2011: 10,795 (6,762Knolls/3,694Glen)
- The third wave play is tapering off on Saturdays and Sundays. Mr. Brown proposed a special similar to last fall with a 9-hole special with cart for \$20 residents and \$25 for non-residents to begin September 8th. Commission consensus was given.
- Mr. Brown also proposed a Glen special starting September 4th, good all day Monday through Friday, 9-holes with a cart for \$17. Commission consensus was given.
- The upgrade to the POS system will begin in the fall.

Tournaments - July

- 18—hole Women’s Member Guest – 76
- Men’s Club Member Guest – 84
- Club Championships
- CT PGA 2-day Tour – 83
- CT Riverhawks Youth Hockey – 32
- Jim Kelley Friday group – 40 non-resident
- 9-hole Women’s Member/Member – 44
- First Selectman’s Cup – 111
- US Kids Westchester Tour – 55
- EWGA Monday Shotgun – 48
- Junior Golf Club – 5 events

Programs:

- Ten Junior 4-day golf camps
- Fall Programs have begun.
- Adult programs continue to be strong with new Full Swing 3-hour works shops, short-game schools, and private lessons. Trumbull Continue Educations starts September 11th
- Taught Starting New At Golf (SNAG) to 24 Trumbull Physical Education teachers. Madison Middle School will pilot the program this winter.
- ATK will work with Continuing Education at all six elementary schools.
- Special Olympics ended for the season and enjoyed many participants this year.

Awards/Thank You:

- Thank you to the Senior Men’s Club for helping with the CT PGA Tour
- Thank you to Larry Cronin and Cristobal Alvarez for helping out with the Sr. Men’s Monday morning junior golfers.
- Mr. Dray commended Mr. Brown for his 2012 CT PGA Horton Smith Award. The entire Commission applauded this recognition.

Mr. Tim Herbst, First Selectman, stopped by the meeting to personally thank all the members of the Golf Commission and golf course employees for their help in making the First Annual First

Selectman's Cup a great success. Incredibly positive feedback was received from all participants. Mr. Herbst expects that the event raised approximated \$35,000 which will be donated to several education-based Trumbull organizations.

House Committee (Ron Dray):

- There was a major sprinkler system leak to a 6" main in the ladies room. The problem was fixed, but it was noted that the pipes in the entire system are rotting from the inside out.
- Mr. Dray and Mr. Nagashima will be working with Mr. Faustini to arrange to have the septic system cleaned out. On high volume days there is a terrible odor outside the clubhouse indicating a problem.

Finance (Jonathan Turk):

Monthly revenue - July (From POS System)

Total Income (including carts)			
	<u>July 2011</u>	<u>July 2012</u>	<u>Change</u>
	\$349,041	\$337,609	-3.28%

Knolls (including carts)			
	<u>July 2011</u>	<u>July 2012</u>	<u>Change</u>
	\$267,661	\$253,543	-5.27%

Glen (including carts)			
	<u>July 2011</u>	<u>July 2012</u>	<u>Change</u>
	\$76,844	\$76,592	-.033%

Round Analysis - June

Knolls			
	<u>July 2011</u>	<u>July 2012</u>	<u>Change</u>
	7,058	6,762	-4.19%

Glen			
	<u>July 2011</u>	<u>July 2012</u>	<u>Change</u>
	3,737	3,649	-2.35 %

Items of Note:

- Tashua Golf Course revenue this month is slightly behind last year's July numbers. However, last July was the greatest on record. If we continue to keep our expenses in check, we can hopefully have another successful year.
- Recently, our fiscal year (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012) ended. We were very fortunate to have both a warm and dry December 2011 and March 2012. This helped Tashua to have an increase in retained earnings of \$139,764 according to the MUNIS report dated August 24, 2012. This increase, while promising, still leaves us far short of our retained

earnings goal. If we were to experience a major catastrophe to our greens or sprinkler system, the cost could be hundreds of thousands of dollars to repair the damage. In addition we would expect a loss of revenue until the repairs are complete which would require even more funds from retained earnings. Given these potential losses, our current Golf Commission has prudently decided to build our retained earnings to handle these unexpected disasters. This approach will assure that Tashua Knolls Golf Course is on a solid path for success now and in the future.

Budget

- No items to report.

Correspondence:

- A letter was read from Lisa Laudano and Barbara Saunders, co-chairs for the recent Ladies 9-hole League Member/Member tournament. Both ladies thanked the Commission, Bobby Brown, Jon Janik, Dave Bove, and Hidalgo Nagashima for their efforts in making the August 23rd event a great success.

Old Business:

- Mr. John Ponzio reported that we have been given the initial OK to build a structure from which to sell soda, water, and pre-made sandwiches. The Commission will discuss the next step in the process.
- Mr. Dray asked Mr. Nagashima to look into the feasibility of a new tee on #18 and to report back at the next meeting.
- The floor in the ladies bathroom remains an issue. When it is humid and if the ladies wear their golf shoes, the floor can become very slippery. Mrs. Deal will work on a letter for Mr. Faustini regarding the issue.
- Mr. Nagashima was asked to work on sprucing up the gardens in the front of the building toward the circle.
- Mr. DeLuca reported that the cost to replace the split rail fence with ½ height fencing on the 1st and 10th tees would be \$500. In order to prevent anyone from stepping over the shorter fence, Mr. Nagashima would add much and annual flowers at a cost of \$200. The Commission agreed to the project.
- Three recycling bins for bottles and cans have been placed near the clubhouse. The Trumbull High Marching Band will be coordinating efforts to collect the material.
- Mr. DeLuca presented Commissioners with a draft of six signs to be placed around the course in order to better direct customers. The total cost would be \$3,200 including one sign that will be donated with existing material.
(Mr. Dray took the opportunity to thank Mr. DeLuca for his work on the fencing, recycling, and signs)
- Mrs. Deal gave each Commissioner a copy of the Business Plan draft. She asked that all Commissioners review the plan and get back with comments.
- Mrs. Deal is also working with Mrs. Michaels on a draft of a tri-fold brochure for tournaments.

(Mr. Dray took the opportunity to thank Mrs. Deal for all her hard work and diligence on the Business Plan)

New Business:

- Mr. Dray reported that there have been several Fire Marshall violations of lights turned off and open doors in the basement area. He asked for everyone's cooperation in keeping the basement lights on and the men's locker room door closed should anyone find them otherwise. New signage will be installed to remind everyone of these requirements.

Executive Session:

Mr. Dray made a motion at 9:50 PM, seconded by Mr. Evans, to move into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter. Mr. Robert Nicola, Town Attorney, and Mr. John Ponzio, Town Treasurer, were asked to attend the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to exit Executive session was made by Mr. Evans at 10:25 PM and seconded by Mr. DeLibro. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mrs. Deal at 10:27 PM; seconded by Mr. Turk to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Plumeau
Golf Course Commission Clerk